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**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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**3. TOP INDIAN SOCIALIST CALLS FOR CO-OPERATION
WITH COMMUNISTS IN ELECTIONS**

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Comment on: [redacted]

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[redacted] Jai Prakash Narain has called on his Praja Socialist Party--India's second-largest--to reverse its long-standing anti-Communist position and co-operate with the Communists in an effort to oust the Congress Party in the national elections scheduled for early 1957. This prepares the ground for formation of a strong leftist united-front movement to oppose Nehru's Congress Party. Narain, one of the most intelligent and respected politicians in India, apparently considers that for the first time there is an opportunity for a united popular movement, similar to that in Ceylon, to defeat the Congress Party.

During the election campaign, any remaining opposition among the Socialists to formation of a front with the Communists is likely to crumble if united-front tactics in such major states as Andhra and West Bengal appear to be headed for success.

Leftist groups are already actively engaged in united-front drives, and have begun to announce programs based on local issues which will appeal to local voters. There is as yet no real sign that the Congress Party is preparing to meet these groups on their own ground at the village level.

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6. CHIEF OF ITALIAN LABOR CONFEDERATION CALLS FOR FREEDOM FROM COMMUNIST PARTY CONTROL

Comment on:

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The 1 August statement of Secretary General Giuseppe Di Vittorio that the Italian General Labor Confederation (CGIL) should be freed from party control suggests that the Communist Party hopes to avoid withdrawal of the Nenni Socialist faction.

Di Vittorio, a Communist deputy and member of the party central committee, published his statement in the Communist organ Unita. He argued that since several parties--some Christian Democrats, Social Democrats and Republicans, in addition to the Communists and Nenni Socialists--are represented in the CGIL, it must be independent of all. He called for a return of non-Communists to the federation in an attempt to lure back the membership of the Social Democrat-oriented labor union, UIL, and possibly also some members of the Christian Democrat-dominated confederation, CISL.

It was suggested at a meeting of Nenni Socialist CGIL leaders in late July that the organization ought to become autonomous.

The apparent decision to free the CGIL from Communist control appears to be another attempt by the Italian Communist Party to avoid losing the leadership of the Italian left to the Nenni Socialists. [redacted]

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